

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing L-histidine which comprises:
 - (a) culturing a microorganism belonging to ~~the genus *Escherichia coli*~~, having an ability to produce L-histidine and having resistance to 150 mg/l ~~aminoquinoline derivative selected from the group consisting of chloroquine, amodiaquine, pentaquine, primaquine and the alkali metal salts thereof of these compounds~~, in a culture medium;
 - (b) producing and accumulating L-histidine in the culture medium; and
 - (c) recovering L-histidine from the culture medium.
- 2 - 4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method for producing L-histidine according to claim 11, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli* H-9341 (FERM BP-6674).
6. (Withdrawn) A microorganism having an ability to produce an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, L-phenylalanine, L-proline, glycine, L-serine, L-threonine, L-cysteine, L-tyrosine, L-asparagine, L-glutamine, L-lysine, L-histidine, L-arginine, L-aspartic acid and L-glutamic acid and having resistance to an aminoquinoline derivative.

7. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 6, wherein the aminoquinoline derivative is selected from the group consisting of chloroquine, amodiaquine, pentaquine, primaquine and the alkali metal salts of these substances.

8. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 6, wherein the amino acid is L-histidine.

9. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of genera *Serratia*, *Corynebacterium*, *Arthrobacter*, *Microbacterium*, *Bacillus* and *Escherichia*.

10. (Withdrawn) *Escherichia coli* H.-9341 (FERN BP-6674).

11 - 12. (Cancelled)

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made the necessary showing under 37 CFR §1.116; and that, accordingly, entry of the present amendments is clearly proper.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of their claims under the first paragraph of 35 USC §112, as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action mailed November 3, 2003, particularly insofar as this rejection is applicable to the claims as presently amended. Contrary to any conclusion by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are clearly enabled by Applicants' original disclosure, particularly in view of the evidence presently of record (in particular, the Declaration Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.132 of T. Abe, submitted with the Amendment filed September 11, 2003).

Thus, the present claims recite a method for producing L-histidine, which includes, inter alia, culturing a microorganism belonging to *Escherichia coli*, this microorganism having an ability to produce L-histidine and having resistance to 150 mg/l primaquine and the alkali metal salts thereof, in a culture medium. It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' disclosure as a whole, especially in light of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art and as can be seen in the aforementioned Declaration of T. Abe, provides sufficient guidance for practicing the presently claimed method. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted, as acknowledged by the Examiner in indicating allowability of claim 5, that Applicants' original disclosure is enabling where the microorganism is *Escherichia coli* H-9341 (FERM BP-6674). As can be seen from Applicants' original disclosure (note, for example, Example 1 on pages 8 and 9 of Applicants' specification), Applicants show, through a specific embodiment with respect to mutant strain H-9340, an embodiment